

dom alights for these cuckoo bees, as the name implies, are parasitic. The female lays her eggs in the food cells of the industrious species. Whether these cuckoo bees actually live in their hosts' nest is unknown. Their object in flying over the Quandong flowers appears to me to give them the opportunity of following the bees collecting pollen to their nests. They are very swift flyers and appear over the bushes at irregular intervals on hot days. They resemble in appearance the before-mentioned *C. albomaculata*. They have a double row of five conspicuous white spots down the abdomen with three white blotches on the flanks and white blotches also on the femur. The face is white, the antennae black and rather long and the outer margins of the wings dull brown. They are stingless.

Crocisa waroonensis has a very wide range in Western Australia. Mr. L. Glauert informs me that the Museum contains specimens from the Gascoyne in the north, inland to Mt. Jackson and Salmon Gums as well as from several localities in the wheat-belt and Rottnest Island. He also tells me that he collected a second species, *C. albifrons*, at Landor Station on the Gascoyne when he visited that locality in 1929.

—F. LAWSON WHITLOCK, Bunbury.

Aggressive Behaviour of Black and White Fantail.—In the June issue of *The Western Australian Naturalist*, in the article by Eric Sedgwick, I read with interest the reference to the aggressive behaviour during the nesting season of his pair of Willie Wagtails or Black and White Fantails (*Rhipidura leucophrys*). They drove away not only Magpies and Magpie-larks but also Swallows and Chestnut-tailed Thornbills, one Thornbill being held down and pecked.

I can substantiate Mr. Sedgwick's remarks. Until recently, I had always regarded the Wagtail as a friendly little bird, guilty of nothing more unsoeiable than the driving away of large and possibly undesirable intruders during the nesting season. Another side of its character, however, was revealed to me last spring.

Early in October, 1946, I was entering the grounds of the Teachers' College, Claremont, where trees and shrubbery provide one of the best bird sanctuaries in the metropolitan area, when I was surprised to see a Wagtail attacking what appeared to be a large moth or butterfly. The Wagtail was on the ground and was viciously pecking at its victim which it had pinned down.

When I drew near I was amazed to see that the Wagtail was attacking another bird. It did not relinquish its victim until I was within a few feet of the struggling birds. It then withdrew with reluctance, revealing its victim to be a badly mauled Silver-eye (*Zosterops australasiae*). As I stretched out my hand to capture the Silver-eye it fluttered away, only to be pounced on by the Wagtail which clutched it with its feet and bore it to the ground. With the Wagtail on top, the struggle was renewed, the Wagtail pecking its victim so viciously that clouds of downy feathers filled the air.

When I once more approached, the Wagtail again withdrew with reluctance, and perching near by, awaited another chance to attack. By this time the Silver-eye was much battered, but when I attempted to pick it up, it managed to flutter over a picket fence where it sought refuge in the thick foliage of a Geraldton Wax tree. When I left, the Wagtail was still waiting in a tree nearby, but had not attempted to molest its victim further.

—C. EAKINS, Correspondence Classes, Claremont.

A Mullet Rearing Experiment.—During 1945 when I was on the staff of the Fisheries Department, I interested myself in an attempt to rear young Mullet (*Mugil dobula*) in an ornamental fish pond in a suburban garden. The fish were collected for me by Fisheries Inspector J. Bateman at the Fish Markets Jetty, Fremantle on July 24, 1945 and were transferred to the pond the following day. Nine fish, measuring about an inch in total length (about 2½ em.) were used for the experiment. The pond was set among rose bushes in the front garden of Mr. J. Kerr, 36 Garret Road, Bayswater, and was of oval form, 8 feet long, 4½ feet wide and of a maximum depth of 8 inches. A log was placed in the middle of it, with some river mud and rushes.

Nothing was seen of the fish until one month later when about five were seen skimming across the water. They were not seen again until January 31, 1946, when it was decided to drain the pond. When only about three inches of water remained over the mud, it was noted that there were still fish alive in it. Three of these were captured and their overall lengths were: 7.2, 6.9 and 6.5 em. The pond was refilled with water and the experiment continued.



Garden Pool in which Mullet were raised.